REPORT OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
ENDED JUNE 30, 1925

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1925

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COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
HEADQUARTERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, July 1, 1925.

To the COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:

The following report of the activities of the fire department during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1925, is submitted:

During the year 2,878 alarms of fire were received, this being an increase of 208 over the number received during the preceding year. Of these alarms, 1,320 were box alarms and 1,658 local or telephone calls.

The number of false alarms received was reduced by 51 from the number during the preceding fiscal year, 227 being recorded. Only one conviction for these offenses was obtained, a six months' sentence in jail being imposed by the court.

Four fires definitely of incendiary origin occurred during the year and 37 other fires where incendiarism was suspected. Apprehension of those guilty of incendiarism or arson is difficult, and positive guilt could be fixed upon only one person during the year for such an offense. In this particular case a man was arrested while escaping from a burning building and died while being transported to a hospital. Examining physician reported that he had taken poison.

It is gratifying to the department to report that a further substantial reduction was made in the annual fire loss during the fiscal year 1925, the total estimated loss for the year being $837,196. This is $184,235 less than the fire loss for the fiscal year 1924.

FIRE PREVENTION

The department has continued to pursue vigorously its fire-prevention work. The reduction in fire loss is beyond question due in no small measure to this field of activity. Not only have the members of the force under the supervision of the fire marshal been consistently active along this line but also the work which is performed by members of fire companies under the supervision of the commanding battalion chief engineers has had far-reaching results. The department's personnel is not sufficient to permit of frequent inspection of all buildings in the District of Columbia. In those types which are regularly inspected, however, fires caused by accumulations of trash and rubbish, or by other similar preventable conditions, are so infrequent as to be practically nonexistent.

DISCIPLINE

Discipline in the department has been uniformly excellent. It was necessary to remove but four members for infractions of the rules and regulations, and less serious infractions numbered 116.

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PENSIONS

The following pensions were granted during the year:

E. F. Shugrue, private, retired July 15, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of $87.50 per month.

C. T. O'Brien, private, retired September 1, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of $87.50 per month.

J. M. Wooster, private, retired November 1, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of $87.50 per month.

J. F. Reynolds, private, retired September 1, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of $87.50 per month.

S. B. D. Rollins, private, retired September 1, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of $87.50 per month.

F. R. Brill, private, retired September 1, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of $87.50 per month.

J. F. Rick, private, retired September 1, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of $87.50 per month.

J. T. Young, private, retired September 1, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of $87.50 per month.

D. H. Zirkle, lieutenant, retired September 15, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of $97.92 per month.

E. T. Martin, private, retired September 15, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of $87.50 per month.

U. C. Rollins, private, retired September 15, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of $87.50 per month.

C. W. Watts, lieutenant, retired September 15, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of $97.92 per month.

Mary F. Shugrue, widow of the late Pvt. E. F. Shugrue (a pensioner at the time of his death), was granted relief in the amount of $60 per month, effective August 11, 1924.

G. L. Hogan, private, retired October 15, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of $50 per month.

Nettie M. Warren, widow of the late Pvt. George Grant Warren, was granted relief in the amount of $60 per month, effective October 22, 1924.

J. J. Hanlon, battalion chief engineer, retired November 30, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of $127.08 per month.

H. E. Nairn, private, retired November 30, 1924, and granted relief in the amount of $87.50 per month.

Mrs. Elsie Steele, widow of the late Capt. J. R. Steele, was granted relief in the amount of $60 per month for her personal use and $10 each for two children, effective November 27, 1924.

H. W. Lusby, captain, retired February 15, 1925, and granted relief in the amount of $104.16 per month.

Mrs. Agnes B. Kreamer, widow of the late Battalion Chief Engineer C. A. Kreamer (a pensioner at the time of his death), was granted relief in the amount of $60 per month, effective January 5, 1925.

P. J. Glynn, private, retired, April 30 1925, and granted relief in the amount of $50 per month.

W. G. Sliney, private, retired April 30, 1925, and granted relief in the amount of $87.50 per month.

Mrs. Mary E. Harper, widow of the late Capt. C. E. Harper (a pensioner at the time of his death), was granted relief in the amount of $60 per month, effective May 14, 1925.

Mrs. Annie E. Burke, widow of the late Pvt. C. F. Burke (a pensioner at the time of his death), was granted relief in the amount of $60 per month, effective May 29, 1925.

Mrs. Grace A. Copeland, widow of the late Pvt. T. E. Copeland, was granted relief in the amount of $60 per month for her personal use and $10 each for four children, effective June 10, 1925.

MORTALITY

It is with deep regret that I report the following deaths among active officers and members, and pensioners:

Capt. J. R. Steele died November 26, 1924.
Pvt. J. W. Hurdle died October 28, 1924.
Pvt. T. E. Copeland died June 10, 1925.
Pensioner E. F. Shugrue died August 10, 1924.
Pensioner G. G. Warren died October 7, 1924.
Pensioner C. A. Kreamer died December 11, 1924.
Pensioner C. E. Harper died April 9, 1925.
Pensioner C. F. Burke died May 29, 1925.

HORSES

June 15, 1925, marked the passing of the horse from the District of Columbia fire department. The last three animals in service, "Barney," "Gene," and "Tom," on that date, after elaborate ceremonies under the auspices of the Evening Star and witnessed by hundreds of animal lovers, were transferred to the custody of the superintendent of the Home for the Aged and Infirm, and relegated to Blue Plains, there to spend the remaining years of their existence in employment far less rigorous and exacting than to that which they were accustomed in the fire department.

While from sentimental reasons some regret attended the elimination of the horse as motive power in the department, the practical benefits in improved service affected thereby can only be a source of gratification.

RESCUE SQUAD NO. 1

At 11.10 o'clock a. m. on January 20, 1925, the department placed in service in No. 2 engine house, Twelfth Street, between G and H Streets NW., its first rescue squad, under the command of Capt. J. R. Groves, Lieut. W. G. Parater, and Sergts. O. R. Anderson and E. J. Carroll. These officers and the 12 privates assigned to the company were trained in first-aid work by Commodore W. E. Longfellow, associate national director of the life-saving service, American Red Cross; and in firemanic work by the drillmaster of the fire department. After a most rigid examination by the Red Cross authorities they were awarded diplomas signifying their qualifications for all branches of life saving.

The squad wagon was designed by the superintendent of machinery of the fire department, and was constructed under his supervision in the fire department repair shop.

This unit, both with regard to its personnel and its apparatus and equipment, filled a long-felt need in the department. It has been assigned to respond to alarms received from the congested sec-

tion of the city and also to alarms from schools, hospitals, large apartments, hotels, etc. In its comparatively short period of service it has so demonstrated its usefulness as to make it almost indispensable in the work of the department. Oxygen breathing helmets used by its crew have on many occasions permitted the squad to extinguish in their incipiency fires which otherwise would have spread with consequent added damage, and the special lighting equipment carried on the wagon has been of inestimable assistance to us in the combating of large night fires. During its five months' service the squad has responded to 109 box alarms and 4 local alarms.

The provision of another rescue squad company for the upper northwest section of the city, which includes so many of our larger apartment houses with their attendant dangers to life in event of fire or panic, is much to be desired, and it is hoped that this may be consummated in the near future.

NEW HOUSES

Under authority of the appropriation act for the fiscal year 1925, contracts have been entered into and work begun, in connection with the erection of No. 29 engine house and No. 13 truck house.

Excellent locations were obtained for both of these companies—No. 29 engine house on Conduit Road at the intersection of Reservoir Street NW., and No. 13 truck house on the northwest corner of Florida Avenue and Orren Street NE.

These houses will probably be completed before winter and the companies will be placed in service promptly. Appropriations have been obtained for personnel and apparatus.

Both of these houses have certain unique features which are not found in other fire stations in the District of Columbia. No. 29 engine house is our first bungalow building and No. 13 truck house is the first one to be provided with individual rooms for the members of the company.

These two new companies will constitute the means of greatly improving the service rendered by the department. They will serve localities which heretofore have lacked fire companies in such proximity as to provide the speedy response which is so necessary in fire extinguishing.

NEW APPARATUS

The following new motor apparatus was received and placed in service during the year:

One 85-foot aerial hook and ladder truck, Seagrave, serial No. 316, placed in service on April 6, 1925, in No. 6 truck house, Park Road, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets NW.

One 1,000-gallon triple combination pumping engine, Seagrave, serial No. 111, placed in service on June 12, 1925, in No. 11 engine house, Fourteenth Street, between Irving and Kenyon Streets NW.

One 750-gallon triple combination pumping engine, Seagrave, serial No. 103, placed in service on June 12, 1925, in No. 3 engine house, New Jersey Avenue, between D and E Streets NW.

One 750-gallon triple combination pumping engine, Seagrave, serial No. 107, placed in service on June 12, 1925, in No. 7 engine house, R Street, between Ninth and Tenth Streets NW.

One five-passenger automobile, Packard, serial No. 24, placed in service on December 1, 1924, in No. 3 truck house, Fourteenth Street and Ohio Avenue NW.

One auto truck, equipped with a 350-gallon gasoline tank, to be used for supplying fuel to pumping engines on the fire ground, is now on order and will be received in the near future.

SEVENTH DAY OFF

On January 24, 1925, the department began the allowance of one day off in each seven to its officers and members. This action was taken under authority of the act of Congress approved May 27, 1924, and the failure to place the privilege in effect at an earlier date was due entirely to lack of authority to appoint the additional men necessary. This authority was granted by Congress during its last session, and the necessary augmentation of the force was made promptly. The system adopted for allowing this leave is working satisfactorily, and its results have been excellent not only from the standpoint of the personnel but from that of the administration of the department as well.

PAY OF BATTALION CHIEF ENGINEERS

The pay of officers and members of the fire department was increased by act of Congress approved May 27, 1924. In this legislation, through an error, the pay of battalion chief engineers was established at $3,050 per annum.

I am glad to be able to report that on January 17, 1925, an act of Congress was approved increasing the salary rate of these officers to $3,250, the amount originally intended for them.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for major improvements in the fire department have been forwarded to the commissioners in the form of estimates for the fiscal year 1927.

CONCLUSION

I sincerely thank the commissioners for the support which they have accorded me during the year. To the officers and members of the department I express my appreciation for the efficiency, loyalty, and interest in their work which they have displayed.

GEO. S. WATSON,
Chief Engineer.

APPENDIX

REPORT OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

WASHINGTON, *July 1, 1925.*

To the CHIEF ENGINEER DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FIRE DEPARTMENT:

I submit the following report of activities of the fire marshal's office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1925:

During the year 2,878 alarms of fire were received and investigated by this office. This is an increase of 208 as compared with the number received during the preceding year. Of this 2,878 alarms of fire, 1,320 were box alarms, an increase of 53 box alarms over the number received during the preceding year; 1,558 were local alarms or telephone calls, an increase of 155 over the number received during the preceding year.

The loss caused by the 1,320 box alarms is estimated at $796,355, part of which was covered by insurance of $21,587,531. The loss caused by the 1,558 local alarms is estimated at $40,841, part of which was covered by insurance of $7,885,305.

The total loss for the fiscal year is estimated at $837,196, a fraction over 2.8 per cent of the total insurance of $29,472,836.

During the year 19 fires occurred for which additional alarms were received. They were as follows:

July 12, 1924, box 981, at 4.01 a. m., followed by a third at 4.10 a. m., for fire in two 1-story frame cattle sheds located at Bennings and Anacostia Roads NE.; estimated loss $21,000

July 25, 1924, box 164, at 12.59 a. m., followed by a third at 1.03 a. m., and a fourth at 1.05 a. m., for fire in an eight-story concrete warehouse located at 734–736 Tenth Street NW.; estimated loss 57,150

July 31, 1924, box 48, at 3.04 a. m., followed by a second at 3.14 a. m., and a third at 3.17 a. m., for fire in lumber yards located at Sixth and C Streets SW.; estimated loss 6,500

September 27, 1924, box 184, at 10.10 p. m., followed by a second at 10.19 p. m., for fire in a three-story brick barber supply warehouse located at 610 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.; estimated loss 34,000

October 6, 1924, box 185, at 8.37 a. m., followed by a second at 8.44 a. m., and a third at 8.46 a. m., for fire in a five-story brick office building located at 1110 F Street NW.; estimated loss 15,500

October 12, 1924, box 86, at 5.38 p. m., followed by a second at 5.41 p. m., for fire in a four-story brick apartment house located at 1408 Girard Street NW.; estimated loss 900

October 25, 1924, box 63, at 3.31 a. m., followed by a second at 3.37 a. m., for fire in two-story brick junk shops located at 300 and 302 H Street NE.; estimated loss 2,700

November 21, 1924, box 357, at 12.37 a. m., followed by a second at 12.41 a. m., for fire in a two-story brick church located at 1630 and 1632 L Street NW.; estimated loss 3,000

November 28, 1924, box 175, at 9.56 a. m., followed by a second at 9.58 a. m., and a third at 10.09 a. m., for fire in a four-story brick furniture storage house, cigar store, lunch room, and clothing store located at 406 to 408 Tenth Street NW., and 1001 to 1003 D Street NW.; estimated loss 3,300

December 22, 1924, box 335, at 6.06 p. m., followed by a second at 6.12 p. m., for fire in a three-story brick rooming house located at 2138 P Street NW.; estimated loss 850

December 27, 1924, box 183, at 1.06 a. m., followed by a second at 1.10 a. m., for fire in a three-story brick millinery store located at 1220 G Street NW.; estimated loss 5,750

January 10, 1925, box 1271, at 7.21 p. m., followed by a third at 7.23 p. m., a fourth at 7.29 p. m., and a fifth at 7.36 p. m., for fire in a five-story brick department store warehouse located at 715 and 717 D Street NW.; estimated loss $290,000

January 17, 1925, box 277, at 11.34 a. m., followed by a second at 11.44 a. m., and a third at 11.52 a. m., for fire in a three-story brick paper box factory and garage located at 54 to 56 Hanover Street NW.; estimated loss 17,000

January 22, 1925, box 127, at 7.42 p. m., followed by a third at 7.45 p. m., fourth at 8.01 p. m., and a fifth at 8.04 p. m., for fire in a three-story brick furniture store located at 743 and 745 Seventh Street NW., and 626, 628, and 630 H Street NW.; estimated loss 105,800

February 4, 1925, box 54, at 3.24 a. m., followed by a second at 3.35 a. m., for fire in two two-story frame buildings occupied as a grocery store and dwelling, respectively; estimated loss 1,600

April 1, 1925, box 62, at 8.48 p. m., followed by a second at 8.53 p. m., for fire in a one-story brick garage and storage house located at 51 and 55 Pierce Street NE.; estimated loss 2,025

May 28, 1925, box 645, at 1.40 a. m., followed by a second at 1.47 a. m., for fire in two-story brick flats and frame sheds located at 1412 to 1418½ Duncan Street NE., and 441 to 447½ Tennessee Avenue NE.; estimated loss 4,000

June 18, 1925, box 17, at 8.44 a. m., followed by a second at 8.50 a. m., for fire in a four-story brick vacant hotel located at 470 and 472 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.; estimated loss 4,000

June 22, 1925, box 1221, at 3.12 a. m., followed by a second at 3.19 a. m., for fire in a three-story brick rooming house located at 942 K Street NW.; estimated loss 1,400

It will be noted that nine of the foregoing fires involved a loss each of $5,000 or more. In addition to those nine fires six other fires occurred in the District of Columbia during the year, involving a loss each of $5,000 or more, for which only single alarms were sounded. They were as follows:

September 3, 1924, box 287, at 10.02 p. m., fire in a one-story brick dry goods and notion store located at 2000 to 2002 Eighteenth Street NW.; estimated loss $9,700

September 7, 1924, box 894, at 1.01 a. m., fire in a one-story frame and tile lumber shed located in rear of 337 Cedar Street, Tacoma Park, D. C.; estimated loss 8,500

January 10, 1925, box 124, at 1.17 a. m., fire in a three-story brick confectionery store located at 626 Louisiana Avenue NW.; estimated loss 10,500

March 5, 1925, box 212, at 8.23 p. m., fire in a three-story brick hardware store located at 1128 Seventh Street NW.; estimated loss 5,000

March 25, 1925, box 264, at 1.54 a. m., fire in a three-story brick dry goods store and dwelling located at 1250 Seventh Street, NW.; estimated loss 12,200

March 27, 1925, box 8165, at 11.04 a. m., fire in a three-story frame dwelling located at Second and Whittier Streets, NW.; estimated loss 5,000

Total	627,375
Loss for the remaining 2,853 fires	209,821
Total estimated loss for the year	837,196

FIRE LOSS COMPARISON

The loss for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1925, when compared with the loss for the preceding year, shows a decrease of $184,235.

More than one-half of the total loss was caused by five fires—the Union Stock Yards' cattle sheds, $21,000; Fries, Beall & Sharp Co., $57,150; Caro Flavoring Co., $34,000; Kann's warehouse, $290,000, and P. J. Nee & Co. (Inc.), $105,800.

During the year the District of Columbia fire department responded to 63 fires at nearby points in Maryland and Virginia and did everything possible to help to extinguish them. The records of this office show only in a few cases the losses caused by these fires.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF FIRE

Ashes (hot) placed in wooden containers or against combustible material	24
Automobiles—Backfiring; carburetor leaking; electric wires short circuiting; gasoline spilled; gasoline fumes ignited	394
Brush, grass, leaves, and trash burning	398
Chimneys—Soot in; defective	243
Electric appliances; electric wires	78
Fats, meats, grease, and foodstuff burning on stoves	58
Gasoline, careless use with; fumes igniting, etc	28
Lamps (kerosene)	25
Matches, carelessness with; children playing with; rats and mice causing matches to ignite	237
Smoking, careless	359
Sparks falling on combustibles	142
Spontaneous combustion	27
Stoves	69

FALSE ALARMS

During the year 227 false alarms of fire were received, a decrease of 51 as compared with the preceding year. Members of the fire marshal's office and the police department made a thorough investigation of each case. A colored man was arrested for telephoning a false alarm and sentenced to serve six months in jail. No success was made in the efforts to apprehend the guilty parties in the remaining cases.

INCENDIARY AND SUSPICIOUS FIRES

During the year there were 37 fires of a suspicious nature and four of incendiary origin. In one of these latter cases a white man was arrested while running from a burning building and died while being taken to police headquarters. It was reported by examining physicians that he had swallowed poison. In the other cases arrests were made but the parties were released on account of lack of evidence.

Thorough investigations were made of all the suspicious fires, but the evidence in all of these cases was not of sufficient strength to cause an arrest.

FOURTH OF JULY FIRES

There were only three fires caused by fireworks during the Fourth of July celebration in the fiscal year just ended. This shows a decrease of one over the previous year and an appreciable decrease in the number occurring during former years. This decrease is attributed to the prohibition placed on the sale and use of fireworks in the District of Columbia.

INFLAMMABLE OILS, AMMUNITION, AND EXPLOSIVES

During the fiscal year 1,215 applications to handle kerosene were received and acted upon by this office.

There were installed and put into operation 509 oil-burning heaters, making a total of 1,177 plants of this character now in the District of Columbia. In addition to these there are now pending 210 applications for installation of oil-burning heaters.

A competent inspector of this office has been detailed exclusively to inspect the installation of oil-burning equipment and see that the regulations are complied with in each case. In all cases two and sometimes more inspections are required—one inspection before the installation is made and one or more inspections after the plant has been installed.

Three hundred and forty-five installations of gasoline tanks were made in the District of Columbia during the fiscal year. As in the case of the oil-burning plants, careful inspections were made to see that the regulations governing the installation of these tanks could be complied with before permits to install them were issued.

Fifty-nine licenses were approved by this office to handle ammunition for small arms other than cartridges for pistols.

INSPECTIONS

The total number of inspections made during the year by the corps of inspectors connected with the fire marshal's office was 57,721; of this number 2,307 were complaints. Six thousand four hundred and ninety notices were served to remedy conditions creating fire hazards, and it was found necessary to take only 15 of these cases to court.

In addition to the above inspections, 126,266 inspections were made of apartment houses, hotels, asylums, private and public schools, etc., by firemen connected with the various fire stations.

All motion-picture theaters and open-air motion picture parks in the District of Columbia were inspected to see that all fire appliances were in proper working order prior to issuance of annual licenses. Each motion-picture theater and each open-air motion-picture park, in addition to the foregoing inspections, was inspected by members of the fire marshal's office at least once each week while the theater or park was open to the public. All told there were 60 motion-picture theaters and motion-picture parks in operation during the year. In addition to these there were in operation 11 so-called "legitimate" theaters.

A uniformed member of the fire department was detailed for duty at each performance held in the "legitimate" theaters. All scenery arriving in the District of Columbia for use in any of them was tested as to fireproof qualities and if found not to stand the test the managers were required to treat it with a fireproof solution or else remove it from the theater before giving a performance.

In many halls and places of public assembly where entertainments were held, one or more uniformed firemen were in attendance during such entertainment, and it was seen by members of this office that all scenery and decorations of a combustible nature used in connection with these gatherings were treated with a fireproof solution.

MOTION-PICTURE MACHINE OPERATORS

All applicants for permits to operate motion-picture machines in the District of Columbia are required to submit a written examination which is taken in the office of the fire marshal and gone over and rated by a member of the electrical engineer's office of the District of Columbia.

MOTION-PICTURE FILM EXCHANGES

An inspector of the fire marshal's office makes a test once each month of the sprinkler systems in all film exchanges in the District, and at least three times each week he makes a thorough inspection of all the exchanges, including the several Government motion picture laboratories and film storage rooms.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As was recommended in previous annual report, it is again recommended that all the privates at present detailed at the fire marshal's office for inspection work, be promoted to inspectors. As you are aware these details are but of temporary nature and can continue only so long as conditions in the fire fighting force of the fire department may warrant. The present force is, therefore, subject at any time to reduction to such an extent as to render practically impossible the proper enforcement of the fire-prevention regulations. The rapid growth of the city during the past several years in the way of large apartment houses, office buildings, dwellings, and garages, has largely increased the work of this office, as the records will show.

CONCLUSION

In concluding this report I wish to express my sincere thanks to the members of the fire marshal's office for their hearty cooperation given me during the past year, and also to the members of the various fire stations who assisted in the work of inspecting and reducing fire hazards.

L. V. SEIB, *Fire Marshal.*

TABLE NO. 1.—*Number of alarms responded to by companies*

	First alarm	Second alarm	Third alarm	Fourth alarm	Fifth alarm	Sixth alarm	Local alarm	Time worked, engine		Hose laid	Hose bursted	Ladders raised	Fire extinguished by chemicals		Hand pumps used	Transfers	Special alarms
								H.	*M.*	*Feet*	*Feet*	*Feet*	Hand	Wagon			
Engine company:																	
No. 1	218	5	5	0	----	----	85	40	10	36,550	0	----	53	25	8	3	----
No. 2	222	4	----	----	----	----	58	71	15	23,700	100	256	26	54	4	2	----
No. 3	218	5	3	----	----	----	43	45	40	24,850	50	40	13	44	6	1	2
No. 4	223	0	5	----	----	----	42	42	0	24,200	750	43	23	46	7	4	0
No. 5	73	2	----	1	1	----	82	34	30	25,600	----	188	22	23	19	2	----
No. 6	291	4	2	----	----	----	62	57	35	23,900	50	20	33	17	----	----	----
No. 7	327	10	3	----	----	----	63	61	--	60,250	450	132	30	96	15	4	----
No. 8	241	4	2	1	----	----	39	40	40	29,100	100	76	18	13	8	5	----
No. 9	258	----	6	----	----	----	105	40	15	37,250	150	60	4	51	7	2	----
No. 10	177	1	----	3	----	----	56	59	20	36,600	50	196	26	16	5	1	----
No. 11	168	----	1	1	----	----	79	31	--	16,700	100	80	26	15	6	----	1
No. 12	253	3	5	----	----	----	60	48	15	22,600	300	112	48	35	21	6	----
No. 13	162	1	5	1	----	----	39	38	--	14,900	50	----	21	19	3	2	1
No. 14	217	2	----	----	----	----	29	88	30	22,900	50	60	18	23	8	----	----
No. 15	42	----	1	----	2	----	25	11	15	10,550	3	160	6	5	6	4	----
No. 16	172	1	----	----	----	----	35	56	15	13,850	50	40	27	10	7	3	----
No. 17	42	----	----	----	2	----	33	13	5	10,300	150	68	6	8	4	3	----
No. 18	178	1	0	1	1	----	28	31	0	28,100	100	28	13	19	4	2	----
No. 19	47	1	----	----	----	----	29	9	--	5,200	100	12	12	5	6	4	2
No. 20	27	----	----	----	----	----	68	20	--	9,600	100	----	16	4	2*	2	2
No. 21	145	1	----	2	1	----	42	28	--	12,000	----	12	28	7	9	2	----
No. 22	38	----	----	----	1	----	73	27	30	15,550	100	56	16	5	2	2	1
No. 23	135	3	3	----	----	----	54	13	1	17,100	----	200	20	28	16	2	1
No. 24	125	----	1	----	2	----	59	42	45	21,100	100	156	32	16	19	3	----
No. 25	34	1	----	----	----	----	43	26	45	9,400	----	52	8	5	6	4	2
No. 26	37	----	----	----	----	----	61	17	30	12,200	----	136	9	7	5	2	2
No. 27	34	----	----	----	2	----	25	32	30	25,700	300	322	15	11	12	2	2
No. 28	50	1	----	----	----	----	61	7	--	8,450	50	20	8	2	2	5	2
Truck company:																	
No. 1	162	15	6	3	2	----	45	--	--	----------	----	3,157	3	----	1	3	3
No. 2	179	3	1	3	----	----	109	--	--	----------	----	2,419	16	----	15	5	----
No. 3	184	1	1	----	----	----	40	--	--	----------	----	3,159	7	----	1	2	----
No. 4	396	2	2	----	----	----	111	--	--	----------	----	4,650	35	----	5	3	----
No. 5	24	----	----	1	1	----	30	--	--	----------	----	324	6	----	6	7	1
No. 6	150	----	1	1	----	----	71	--	--	----------	----	1,170	3	----	----	2	----
No. 7	182	----	----	1	1	----	47	--	--	----------	----	1,549	13	----	1	6	----
No. 8	30	----	----	----	----	----	10	--	--	----------	----	253	----	2	2	2	----
No. 9	97	3	----	----	2	----	37	--	--	----------	----	710	7	----	1	2	----
No. 10	172	2	5	----	----	----	28	--	--	----------	----	2,634	10	----	1	6	----
No. 11	26	----	----	----	----	----	29	--	--	----------	----	698	----	----	----	1	----
No. 12	21	----	----	----	----	----	26	--	--	----------	----	450	6	2	----	2	----
Fireboat No. 1	22	----	----	----	----	----	8	41	15	2,200	----	36	2	----	----	----	----
Water tower	----	11	3	----	----	----	----	6	15	----------	----	----------	----	----	----	----	----

TABLE NO. 2.—*Causes for which alarms of fire were sounded during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1925*

	Number		Number
Accidental alarms	1	Alarms, no fire—Continued.	
Alarms, erroneous	7	Fire alarm bells in warehouse rang accidentally	1
Alarms, false	227	Gas escaping	3
Alarms, no fire:		Horse fell in canal	2
Ammonia plant leaking	19	Horse stuck in mud	3
Automobile and occupants fell from bridge	1	Hot-water pipe burst	1
Barrel of molasses fell and burst on street	1	Oil overflowing in oil furnace	1
Boiler exploded	1	Overheated brake	1
Cat in tree	1	Overheated steam boiler	1
Child caught under street car	1	Steam valve blew off	1
Collision between two automobiles	1	Steamboat stalled in river	1
Door and top of furnace blew off	1	Steam pipe burst	1
Electric wires short-circuiting	1	Sign blown loose from building by wind	1
Elevator cable broke	1	Steam escaping	1
Explosion in tire shop	1	Sulphur pipe leaking	20
		Smoke pipe fell down chimney	1
			1

TABLE No. 2.—*Causes for which alarm of fire were sounded during fiscal year ended June 30, 1925*—Continued

	Number
Alarms, no fire—Continued.	
Trees fell on house	1
Wagon turned over on man	1
Wall of house collapsed	1
Waterback in kitchen range exploded	2
Waterback burst	1
Water pipe burst	6
Workman fainted on edge of roof	1
Acetylene torch, careless use with	1
Ashes (hot) fell on or thrown against combustible material	24
Asphalt paint ignited while being heated	1
Automobiles:	
Backfiring	76
Bottle of acid upset and ignited car	1
Brake band overheated	8
Burlap sack on top of engine ignited	1
Carburetor flooded, leaking	10
Cotton waste under seat catching fire	1
Collision between two automobiles	1
Collided with electric light pole	2
Collided with lamp-post	1
Crank case blew off	1
Electric wires short-circuiting	223
Engine overheated	3
Gasoline fell on engine	2
Gasoline fell on hot muffler	1
Gasoline ignited while burning out carbon	1
Gasoline fumes ignited	20
Gasoline pipe leaking	9
Gasoline spilled on hot exhaust pipe	12
Gasoline tank leaking	3
Gasoline tank overflowing	1
Grease ignited	1
Greasy rags ignited	1
Heater ignited cushion	1
Hot exhaust pipe ignited auto	1
Kerosene oil lamp ignited auto	3
Kerosene oil stove ignited car	2
Motor running while filling tank with gasoline	1
Muffler overheated	1
Oil dropped on hot exhaust pipe	1
Paper dropped on hot exhaust pipe	2
Radiator frozen	1
Rags ignited from muffler	1
Ran over embankment	1
Bake oven overheated, ignited woodwork	1
Boiler, defective installation	1
Bonfire	2
Boxes placed too near smoke stack, ignited	1
Brush, grass, leaves, and trash burning	398
Brushes on motor short-circuited	1
Burning paint out of bucket	1
Can of shellac ignited from oil stove	1
Can of tar put on stove to heat, ignited	1
Candle (sulphur) fumigating with	6
Candle left burning mistaken for house afire	2
Candle (wax) upset and ignited table	1
Careless burning of trash	1
Careless use with fire	9
Children playing with fire	29
Chimneys, soot in, defective	224
Christmas tree ignited from candle	1
Clothes boiling dry on stove and ignited	4
Corn whisky spilled on stove and ignited	1
Electric fan short-circuited	1
Electric iron, current left on	12
Electric stove, current left on	2
Electric wires in street-car slot circuited	5
Electric wires on street car short-circuited	9
Electric wires, rat gnawed insulation	1
Electric wires short-circuited in houses, shops, and stores	48
Explosion of chemicals	1
Fats, meats, grease, and foodstuff burning on stoves	58
Fire built in imitation fire place	1
Fire built under broken stone to keep it from freezing	1
Fireworks ignited combustibles	3
Floor sweepings in hot-air register ignited	1
Flue, defective	19
Fumes from can of vulcanizing cement ignited	1
Fumigating house	1
Furnaces, defective, overheated, too near combustibles	12
Furnace pipes, defective, overheated	2
Gas flaming from leaky chandelier	1
Gas leaking and ignited	9
Gas engine exploded	1
Gas fixture broke and gas ignited	1
Gas heater overheated	1
Gas hose, leaking, ignited still	1
Gas iron left burning	3
Gas jet ignited curtain, partition, drapery, woodwork	11
Gas log overheated, defective	2
Gas mantle broke and fell	4
Gas meter exploded	1
Gas range defective, too close to floor, too close to partition	5
Gas water heater ignited partition	1
Gas pipe in lamp-post leaking	1
Gasoline, careless use with	18
Gasoline coming in contact with electric plug and ignited	2
Gasoline fumes ignited	5
Gasoline pressure lamp exploded	1
Gasoline pressure tank exploded	1
Gasoline spilled on ground and ignited	1
Grease in smokehouse ignited	3
Grease stack overheated	1
Heating plant burst	1
Horse fell in sewer	1
Hot plates of fireless cooker ignited table	1
Hot poker placed against combustible material	1
Hot water furnace installed on kitchen floor	1
Hot water heater, defective, bad installation, too near combustibles	4
Iron (electric) current left on	2
Iron (gas) ignited clothing and floor	2
Incendiary fires	4
Joist extending into chimney ignited	1
Kerosene oil poured in stove to kindle fire	2
Kindling wood too close to smoke-pipe hole	1
Lace curtain came in contact with gas lamp	1
Lamp (kerosene) defective, exploded, overturned, wick to high, too close to combustibles	25
Lantern (kerosene) hanging on haywagon ignited hay	1
Lamp-post broken and gas ignited	1
Lightning, struck by	3
Lime slaking, ignited canvas floor	1
Matches:	
Carelessness with	136
Children playing with	79
Canned goods dropped on matches	1
Ignited from friction	1
Rats and mice with matches	20
Man partly demented set fire to bed	2
Mischievous fires	2
Motion-picture film ignited in machine	1
Motor overheated	1
Oil-burning furnaces:	
Clogged with carbon	5
Defective installation	1
Oil overflowed	1
Trip failed to function	11
Valve left open	1
Open fireplace, defective, overheated	11
Paint on gas range ignited	1
Painter's torch ignited woodwork	3
Paper pasted over chimney hole ignited	1
Rag, burning, fell from furnace into paper on floor	1
Rats' nest ignited	4
Reflection of fire in stove mistaken for house afire	1
Rekindling of old fire	5

TABLE No. 2.—*Causes for which alarm of fire were sounded during fiscal year ended June 30, 1925*—Continued

	Number
Rubber comb and brush put into oven to dry and ignited	1
Smoke scare	89
Smoking, careless	359
Smokehouse overheated and ignited	1
Smoke pipe, defective, overheated, extended through woodwork	28
Smokestack overheated	1
Soot from gas heater on gas jet fell on bed and ignited bed	1
Sparks fell on combustibles	142
Sparks scare	1
Spontaneous combustion	27
Static electricity	4
Steam pipe overheated	2
Sterilizer overheated	1
Stoves (coal) hot coals falling from, overheated, combustibles too near	25
Stove (electric) overheated	1
Stove (gas) combustibles too close	7
Stove (kerosene) caught fire, exploded, overheated, upset	36
Stove pipe hole covered with laths and plaster	1
Suspicious fires	37
Tar pot, overheated, boiled over	12
Thawing frozen water pipes	2
Tinner's furnace, careless use	1
Trash in ash chute ignited	1
Two alarms for same fire	7
Unknown origin	12
Wall paper fell from wall on lighted gas jet	1
Total	2,815
Fires outside of District of Columbia	63
Grand total	2,878